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Applicant: Neil McLoughlin
Appl. No.: 09/737,596
Filed: December 18, 2000
Title: NICKEL BARRIER END TERMINATION AND METHOD
Art Unit: 2832
Examiner: K. Easthom
Docket No.: 112690-895

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

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RESPONSE

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated December 5, 2001, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please amend Claim 36 as follows:

36. (Amended) A varistor comprising:
a semiconductor body including conductive plates interleaved between zinc oxide layers, the body surface being untreated and including an interior region and a plurality of separate terminal regions; and
nickel barrier caps formed directly on the untreated terminal regions by bringing only the terminal regions into contact with a nickel plating solution such that the nickel plating solution bonds to the terminal regions but not the semiconductive interior regions.

Please cancel Claim 37 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend Claim 38 as follows:

38. (Amended) The varistor of Claim 36, wherein each nickel barrier cap is between about 1 and about 3 μm thick.